

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ANTIMONY IN THE FIRST QUARTER 1999

Prices for most forms of antimony remained steady during the first quarter of 1999. The New York dealer price for antimony published by *Platt's Metals Week* was \$0.67 to \$0.77 per pound at the beginning of the quarter and \$0.65 to \$0.74 per pound at the end of the quarter.

The price of high-tint antimony trioxide, published by *American Metal Market*, started and ended the quarter at \$0.90 to \$1.05 per

pound.

The price for clean antimony sulfide concentrate, published by *Metal Bulletin*, started and ended the quarter at \$8.50 to \$9.00 per metric ton unit. The price for lump antimony sulfide ore (60% antimony content) also began and ended the quarter at \$8.50 to \$9.00 per metric ton unit.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ANTIMONY STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

	1998		1999
	Total p/	Fourth quarter	First quarter
Production:			
Primary smelter 2/	23,700	6,540	6,200
Secondary	4,750	1,150	967
Imports for consumption:	34,600	8,790	4,550 3/
Ore and concentrate	2,020	325	66 3/
Metal	13,500	3,050	210 3/
Oxide 4/	19,100	5,410	2,380 3/
Exports:	4,830	2,680	623 3/
Metal, alloys and scrap	898	1,960	66 3/
Oxide 4/	3,930	725	557 3/
Consumption of primary antimony	13,300 r/	3,380 r/	3,580
Price: Average cents per pound 5/	71.84	67.58	67.45
Stocks end of period 6/	XX	10,700 r/	10,800

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits, except prices.

2/ Nearly all smelter output is trioxide.

3/ Data for January and February only.

4/ Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

5/ Platts Metals Week, New York dealer price for 99.5% to 99.6% metal, c.i.f. U.S. ports.

6/ Producer and consumer stocks.

TABLE 2
INDUSTRY STOCKS OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY IN THE
UNITED STATES, END OF PERIOD 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Type of material	1998 2/	1999 2/
	Fourth quarter	First quarter
Metal	2,890	2,520
Oxide	4,740 r/	5,340
Other 3/	3,070 r/	2,930
Total	10,700 r/	10,800

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who held 97% of the total stocks of antimony at the end of 1997.

3/ Includes ore and concentrate, sulfide, and residues.

TABLE 3
INDUSTRIAL CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material consumed	1998 2/		1999 2/
	Total p/ r/	Fourth quarter r/	First quarter
Metal	1,810	439	485
Oxide	11,400	2,930	3,080
Other 3/	48	12	16
Total	13,300	3,380	3,580

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who consumed 79% of the total antimony in 1997.

3/ Includes sulfide and residues.

TABLE 4
INDUSTRIAL CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY, BY CLASS OF
MATERIAL PRODUCED 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Product	1998		1999
	Total p/	Fourth quarter	First quarter
Metal products:			
Bearing metals and bearings	9 r/	1	1
Other 2/	1,800 r/	446 r/	485
Total metal products	1,810 r/	447 r/	486
Nonmetal products:			
Ceramics and glass	1,570	391	320
Plastics	1,330 r/	285 r/	425
Other 3/	641	190 r/	199
Total nonmetal products	3,540 r/	866 r/	944
Flame-retardants:			
Plastics	4,650 r/	1,230 r/	1,270
Other 4/	372 r/	91 r/	99
Total flame retardants	5,020 r/	1,320 r/	1,370
Total reported	10,400 r/	2,640 r/	2,800
Full industry totals 5/	13,300 r/	3,380 r/	3,580

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes ammunition, antimonial lead, cable coverings, castings, sheet and pipe, and solder.

3/ Includes ammunition primers and pigments.

4/ Includes adhesives, pigments, rubber, and textiles.

5/ Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who consumed 78% of the total antimony in 1997.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ANTIMONY, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content unless otherwise specified)

Country	1998			1999		
	Total p/	December	Fourth quarter	January	February	January-February
Ore and concentrate:						
Australia	572	64	190	--	--	--
Austria	149	8	32	8	10	18
Canada	90	--	--	--	--	--
China	1,020	18	54	48	--	48
Other	192	50	50	--	--	--
Total	2,020	139	325	56	10	66
Metal:						
Canada	225	8	12	5	4	9
China	11,700	850	2,710	1,170	826	2,000
Hong Kong	316	18	18	35	--	35
Mexico	942	20	239	--	62	62
Peru	157	18	35	--	--	--
Other	129	1	43	--	--	--
Total	13,500	914	3,050	1,210	892	2,100
Oxide:						
Belgium	1,820	50	409	161	215	376
Bolivia	2,620	252	611	66	92	158
Chile	181	--	--	48	--	48
China	8,370	695	2,900	557	342	899
France	183	10	23	--	9	9
Guatemala	266	--	--	33	--	33
Hong Kong	420	--	--	--	--	--
Mexico	2,390	79	598	257	313	570
Netherlands	166	--	--	81	--	81
Russia	249	--	83	--	--	--
South Africa	2,240	386	748	150	33	183
United Kingdom	77	--	26	5	6	11
Other	137	--	13	10	2	12
Total	19,100	1,470	5,410	1,370	1,010	2,380
Grand total	34,600	2,520	8,790	2,630	1,910	4,550
Other antimony compounds (gross weight)	81	--	10	9	20	29

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census. Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.